



# Administrative Office of the Courts

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## *Court Announces Employee Service Awards for 2014-- Portland Woman Named Court Employee of the Year.*

November 21, 2014. For Immediate Release—Portland, Maine. Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley, of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, today announced the recipients of the Maine Judicial Branch performance awards for 2014.

Prior to announcing the awards, the Chief Justice observed, “Every year I enjoy reading all of the nominations submitted for these awards. Each year we can only recognize a handful of Judicial Branch employees for their public service, but the ones we recognize also represent their peers, their fellow nominees and employees. These are the people who understand that serving the public is a privilege. For members of the public coming to court, the experiences of filing or defending a case, being a witness, or contesting a traffic summons, can often be a stressful experience. I am proud of the way Judicial Branch employees serve the public with respect, helpfulness and efficiency each and every day. And the employees who today are recognized by the Court and their fellow employees exemplify all that is good in the Judicial Branch”

Chief Justice Saufley announced that the recipient of the 2014 Judicial Branch Career Performance Award is Patricia Saucier, of Poland. The award is given to that person who consistently contributes above and beyond expected job responsibilities to further the Judicial Branch mission. Ms. Saucier works as an Assistant Clerk in the Violations Bureau, located in Lewiston. The Violations Bureau handles all civil and traffic violations for the entire state. Ms. Saucier will soon celebrate her 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary with the Judicial Branch. The Chief Justice observed that, “Last year alone she docketed 21,534 tickets, processed nearly 10,000 defendant answers, entered court returns on over 4,000 cases, processed over 1,000 payments at the customer window, and still found time to answer approximately 5,500 telephone calls. There is probably no one



in the Judicial Branch who comes into contact with more Maine residents and state agencies, and despite the prodigious volume of her work, Ms. Saucier is always courteous, patient, professional and respectful. By all accounts, she has shown this exemplary work ethic and productivity throughout her career!”

Chief Justice Saufley announced that Rose Everitt of Portland, Lead Law Clerk to the Chief Justice is the Outstanding Judicial Employee of the Year. This award is conferred upon that person who best exemplifies the qualities of competence in providing court services, commitment to public service, respect, courtesy to fellow employees and members of the public, and a willingness to learn and grow. Ms. Everitt has been employed in the Judicial Branch for 11 years. In conferring the award the Chief Justice said, “Rose approaches all of her work with a dedication and respect for the law, and the mission of the Judicial Branch She is always willing to help others, and ‘goes the extra mile’ to provide service to everyone with whom she comes in contact.”



The Special Service Award was given this year to the court management system summit planning team. This group is involved in preparing for the purchase of a modern case management and electronic filing system. This group planned and hosted multiple events to solicit and receive input from those who will use the system. Receiving this input from employees at all levels of the court was a major milestone in the development of the request for proposal. The employees honored were: John T. Smith, Service Center Manager; Christopher Oberg, Manager of Application Development & Implementation; Beth Maddaus, Manager of Clerks of Court; Superior Court Justice Anne Murray and District Court Judge Susan Oram.



The Chief Justice also recognized Barry Lucier of South Portland with a Special Service Award for his work in the Foreclosure Diversion Program. Mr. Lucier has been employed 5 years in the Maine courts. During that time he has maintained the foreclosure diversion (mediation) data base, Most recently he developed a quarterly reporting system to better track cases, and trained the dozens of mediators to provide better reports to the court.



The Roy Rice Award is given to that person, group, or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the safety and well being of the employees of the Judicial Branch and people who participate in court activities. Chief Justice Saufley announced that this year's winners are Sergeant Andrew Mendes of Bangor who works as a judicial marshal in the Penobscot Judicial Center and Sergeant Lori Ramsay, of the Somerset County Sheriff's Department, who works in the Somerset County Superior Court and the Skowhegan District Courts. Chief Justice Saufley said, "Sergeant Mendes oversaw the



transition for court security from the Penobscot Sheriff's department to the judicial marshals in 2014. His excellent people skills and skillful supervision made for a seamless transition. The success of the transition owes much to Sergeant Mendes' handling of this challenging assignment." In recognizing Deputy Sheriff Ramsay, Chief Justice Saufley said, "Everyone who works with Deputy Ramsay has remarked that she has a special gift for tamping down the tension in a courtroom, when emotions get high."



James Fox, a fifth grader from Gorham, was awarded Honorable Mention in the category of Judicial Branch Volunteers of the Year. James was a volunteer last summer in the Administrative Office of the Courts in Portland. In recognizing James, the Chief Justice observed, "Although only a rising fifth grader, James spent 2 hours a day for most of the summer assisting in the AOC with clerical work! He is an efficient and smart young man, who came to work with a terrific, can-do attitude. James is proof that no matter how young you are, you can make a difference. We are grateful for his help." Another group of volunteers will be honored early next year.